

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) Reinforcing fibres based on vegetable fibres whose elementary fibres are fibrillated, wherein the elementary fibres have a fibril fraction greater than 3 area per cent and less than 50 area per cent and wherein the elementary fibers have been fibrillated by an air grinder.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) Fibres according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 21, wherein said fibres are based on at least one fiber selected from the group consisting of flax, hemp, sisal, jute or and ramie fibres.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) Reinforcing fibres comprising a mixture of fibres according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 21 and fibrillated aramid fibres.

Claim 4 (Previously presented) Fibres according to Claim 3, wherein the weight fraction of the vegetable fibres in said mixture is between 10% and 90%.

Claim 5 (Previously presented) Fibres according to Claim 3, wherein the weight fraction of the vegetable fibres in said mixture is between 50% and 80%.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) Reinforcing fibres comprising a mixture of fibres according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 21 and shives.

Claim 7 (Previously presented) Fibre according to claim 6, wherein the weight fraction of the shives in said mixture is less than 10%.

Claim 8 (Previously presented) Fibre according to claim 6, wherein the weight fraction of the shives in said mixture is between 25 and 75%.

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Claim 9 (Currently Amended) Additive for friction linings, containing fibres according to Claim [[1]] 21 and tin sulphides.

Claim 10 (Previously presented) Additive according to claim 9, wherein the weight fraction of the fibres in said additive is between 5 and 95% by weight.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) Friction lining, comprising fibres according to Claim [[1]] 21.

Claim 12 (Previously presented) Friction lining according to claim 11, comprising tin sulphide which is present in an amount of 0.5 to 90% by weight, based on the total amount of the lubricating materials.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) Gasket, comprising fibres according to Claim [[1]] 21.

Claims 14-16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) Processing fibres based on vegetable fibres whose elementary fibres are fibrillated wherein the elementary fibres have a fibril fraction greater than 3 area per cent and less than 50 area per cent and wherein the elementary fibers have been fibrillated by an air grinder.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) Processing fibres comprising a mixture of fibres according to claim [[17]] 22 and fibrillated aramid fibres.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) Processing fibres comprising a mixture of fibres according to claim [[17]] 22 and shives.

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Claim 20 (Previously presented) Processing fibres according to claim 19, wherein the weight fraction of the shives in said mixture is between 25 and 75%.

Claim 21 (New) The fibers of claim 1 wherein said air grinder is an eddied air grinder.

Claim 22 (New) The fibers of claim 17 wherein said air grinder is an eddied air grinder.

Claim 23 (New) The fibers of claim 1 wherein said fibers are based on at least one fiber selected from the group consisting of hemp, sisal, jute and ramie fiber.

Claim 24 (New) The fibers of claim 17 wherein said fibers are based on at least one fiber selected from the group consisting of hemp, sisal, jute and ramie fiber.

Claim 25 (New) An additive for friction linings, said additive containing fibers, tin sulfides and shives; said fibers being reinforcing fibers comprising a mixture of reinforcing fibers based on vegetable fibers and fibrillated aramid fibers with the proviso that said reinforcing fibers based on vegetable fibers are vegetable fibers having elementary fibers which are fibrillated wherein said elementary fibers have a fibril fraction greater than three area percent and less than 50 area percent.